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## Van Woerkom Supports Aquifer Protection Bill

*Senate Bill 289 would require Department of Environmental Quality to map critical aquifers*

LANSING – The Michigan State Senate today took the first step to protecting Michigan groundwater and the Great Lakes by passing legislation to identify and map critical aquifers in the state, Senator Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores, announced.

“Senate Bill 289 allows us to protect one of our greatest resources – our groundwater,” Van Woerkom said. “Michigan needs to develop a strategy now for protecting our water supplies.”

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) would be required to prepare a statewide groundwater inventory and map if Senate Bill 289 becomes law. The bill would also create the Groundwater Advisory Council within the DEQ to study the ability of the state to sustain groundwater.

SB 289 was passed unanimously. It will now be considered by the House of Representatives.

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